Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—The answering of questions is defined by the rules.

President.—I say this after knowing the practice elsewhere.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I bow to the President's ruling.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Are we allowed to put the same questions on another occasion?

President.—Questions once answered cannot be put again. That is the rule on that point.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I mean it is all to be done in one hour. Still, for arguments' sake, suppose there are 40 or 50 questions, of which some questions you are not inclined to answer. By a simple manipulation, you give us all the pleasant ones in the first 2 or 3 pages, and the unpleasant ones which follow them would not be answered, because there is no time. That is the difficulty.

President.—We know the principle in Madras. There may be any number of questions for a day. It will not be possible to answer them all. But you need not attribute such motives to the Government, nor insinuate that the Government follow a particular order to avoid the so-called unpleasant questions. Questions may be sometimes unpleasant. Government will do their best to answer them. I don't deny that such results may ensue.

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—But not on the score of unpleasantness, Sir, that such results at times ensue.

The appointment of a Staff Selection Board for the State.

7. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform, in view of the criticisms that have been frequently made in the Legislative Council by non-official members about the unsatisfactory methods of selecting candidates for Government service (as at present exists) and of the suggestion made to appoint a Staff Selection Board consisting mainly of non-official members, if the Government will appoint a Staff Selection Board, and if the answer is inthe negative;

(b) the reason for not doing so ;

(c) whether at the Headmasters' Conference held at Trichur on the 18th and 19th January 1926, Mr. K. Raman Menon and Mrs. Velayudha Menon advocated the formation of a Board consisting also of non-officials for the selection of suitable candidates for appointment in Sirkar Schools ;

(d) whether the Conference did not agree that a Board ou the lines suggested might be constituted and Government addressed on the subject ;

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(e) what action, if any, has been taken, by the Government on this representation by the Headmasters in the State; if no action has been taken;

(f) the reason for not taking any action;

(g) whether any action will be taken by the Government in the near future;

(h) whether a copy of the Government Proceedings on this representation will be placed on the table?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) The Government do not consider that there is any necessity for the appointment of a Staff Selection Board.

(b) The present methods of selecting candidates for Government service are working satisfactorily. So far as the Government are aware, no case has been made out for the appointment of a Staff Selection Board.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) The resolution on the subject was considered by the Government. The proposal was not, however, sanctioned, as the Government did not consider that there was any necessity for it.

(f) No answer is necessary in view of the answer to (e) above.

(g) Vide answer to (f).

(h) A copy is placed on the table. The representation referred to is resolution 75. (*Vide Appendix III.*)

The previous supply of printed Questions and Answers to official members.

8. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to inform whether the official members of the Legislative Council are supplied with printed questions and answers before they are made available to the non-official members of the Legislative Council. and if so, to give the reason and under what section of the Council Rule this is done?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The answer is in the negative.

Mr. K T. Mathew.—Have not Government done so at any time? That questions and answers were given to some of the officers has been admitted once in this Council?

President.—Do you find any record anywhere?

Mr. K T. Mathew—Yes, I shall produce that, Sir.

President.—Then, all right.

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